

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885
AMEMBASSY LIMA

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LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE CU OAS

SUBJ: VENEZUELAN RECOGNITION OF CUBA; PEREZ'S SUCCESSES AT LIMA

1. DURING LAST WEEKEND'S CELEBRATION OF SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BATTLE OF AYACUCHO, ENTIRE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN THOSE MINISTERS ATTENDANT UPON CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AT LIMA REPAIRED TO CUMANA, THE BIRTHPLACE OF FIELD MARSHAL SUCRE. IN FACT, AN OFFICIAL CABINET MEETING WAS HELD IN THAT CITY, PRESIDED OVER BY ACTING PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR LUIS PINERUA, AND THE TOWN WAS OFFICIALLY DECLARED "CAPITAL OF VENEZUELA" FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THIS ASSEMBLAGE OF MINISTERS, THE ACTING PRESIDENT, AND ELDERS OF THE AD PARTY -- INCLUDING FORMER PRESIDENT BETANCOURT, PRESIDENT OF PARTY AND CONGRESS GONZALO BARRIOS, AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON FALCON BRICENO -- GAVE ME A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. ON QUESTION OF CUBAN RECOGNITION, FALCON BRICENO, SPEAKING IN A CLUBBY GROUP WHICH INCLUDED ROMULO BETANCOURT, GONZALO BARRIOS AND JAIME LUSINCHI, TOLD ME THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT VENEZUELA WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT, REPEAT NOT, TO RECOGNIZE THE CASTRO REGIME UNTIL AN APPROPRIATE BODY OF THE OAS HAD APPLIED THE "ECUADOREAN FORMULA"

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(TO WHICH ACCORDING TO STATE 266335, WE HAVE PUBLICLY AGREED),

WHEREBY IT WOULD REQUIRE A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF VOTES TO LIFT
SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA BUT A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO IMPOSE
SANCTIONS AGAINST THAT OR ANY OTHER STATE.

2. I TOLD FALCON THAT I VERY MUCH AGREED WITH HIM. IN MY
OPINION, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE OAS AND FOR VENEZUELA
IF THE NEW VOTING FORMULA WERE FOLLOWED AS THIS WOULD ACHIEVE
VENEZUELA'S OBJECTIVE BUT AT THE SAME TIME BE WITHIN THE
APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK.

3. HOWEVER, I GAINED IMPRESSION FROM FALCON THAT PRESIDENT
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WILL PROBABLY NOT WAIT FOR FURTHER OAS
ACTION. THIS SEEMS CONFIRMED BY NEWS FROM LIMA IN THIS
MORNING'S PAPERS, INCLUDING ONE ARTICLE WHICH SAYS THAT PEREZ
HAD A THREE HOUR INTERVIEW WITH CUBAN FONMIN RAUL ROA WHICH
DID NOT TERMINATE UNTIL 1:25 IN THE MORNING. ACCORDING TO
THIS ARTICLE, DETAILS OF FORTHCOMING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE
DISCUSSED. IT SEEMS PROBABLE, THEREFORE, THAT VENEZUELA WILL
INDEED RECOGNIZE CUBA AND DISREGARD FORMER SANCTIONS WITHIN
FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE.

4. BECAUSE OF UNUSUAL VENEZUELAN PRESS COVERAGE OF CARLOS
ANDRES PEREZ'S ACTIVITIES IN LIMA, WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO COVER
IT BY A SEPARATE UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM AS UNDOUBTEDLY THE EMPHASIS
IN PRESS AT LIMA WILL BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE ALMOST
EXCLUSIVE CONCENTRATION ON VENEZUELA AND ITS PRESIDENT AS REVEALED
IN REPORTING HERE.

5. I SHOULD ADD THAT CABINET MINISTERS AT CUMANA WERE EUPHORIC
IN THEIR PRAISE OF PRESIDENT PEREZ AND WHAT THEY REGARDED AS
HIS OUTSTANDING PERSONAL TRIUMPH AT LIMA.
MCCLINTOCK

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